

**STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Agenda Consideration**

**TOPIC:** Behind the Wheel Required Parent Meeting

**ITEM NO.** 10J

**PREPARED BY:** Jean S. Murray  
Superintendent

**MEETING:** August 24, 2004  
**ACTION DATE:** Information Only

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**ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT:** That the Board receive for information an overview of the Driver Education Parent Meeting that is to be required for those students who take Behind the Wheel training during the 2004-05 school year.

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**KEY POINTS:**

Background - All tenth-grade students enrolled in Physical Education receive 36 plus hours of classroom driver education as required by the Code of Virginia. Upon successful completion of the classroom portion of driver education, students are given the option to sign up for Behind the Wheel training. In the past, each high school has offered an informational driver education meeting for parents. Attendance has varied over the years from a few parents to as many as one hundred.

Overview - Teen driving has become a community issue. Stafford County Schools have been active participants on the BOS's Youth Driver Task Force. One area under review by the Task Force is Awareness Education. Educating parents about their role in promoting safe driving practices and licensing laws is important. One recommendation of the Youth Driver Task Force is to expand the parent driver education meeting and make it mandatory. A mandated parent meeting for those students who take Behind the Wheel training will have several objectives:

- Explain what will be included in the Behind the Wheel program and the requirements.
- Provide update of new laws related to driving and review existing laws for underage drivers.
- Review the *40-Hour Parent/Teen Driving Guide* and required driving log.
- Share materials from *Dying2Drive*, A Teen Safe Community Health Initiative that is a statewide program that identifies parents as key players in influencing teens to drive safely and avoid risk behind the wheel.
- Update of the procedures and rules related to the parking lot.
- View the video *Can I Borrow the Car?* which focuses on parents understanding the risk factors for young drivers and what they can do to improve their safety.
- Provide law enforcement representatives, guest speakers and teachers to educate and support parents and answer any questions they may have.

Conclusion - Each high school will host at least three mandated parent meetings during the school year targeting those who have a student currently receiving classroom driver education. Attendance will be taken for the evening program that will run for approximately 70 to 90 minutes. The meetings will be advertised in each high school's monthly school newsletter and a letter home with students in classroom driver education.

**SCHOOL BOARD GOAL:** (3) Encourage parents and the community to increase their interest and involvement in schools.

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

**AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE:**